



First Quarter 2007

AMERICAN CITIZEN NEWSLETTER*

Dear Resident Americans,

Welcome to the first-ever U.S. Consulate General, Frankfurt American Citizen E-Newsletter*! The American Citizen Services section of the Consulate is initiating this quarterly e-newsletter to help keep you in the loop on the latest information on issues that affect Americans residing in Germany. We'll include information on U.S. passports and services for American citizens, and link you electronically to other topics of interest. This newsletter is intended to supplement the messages on security issues and emergencies registered Americans will continue to receive as they arise. We hope you enjoy it and welcome your comments.

Thanks and best regards,

Jo Ellen Powell
Consul General

*Help name our newsletter! Send your entries to GermanyACS@state.gov and a randomly selected jury of Consular Section staff will pick a winner from the suggestions received by May 1. The winner will receive an American Consulate souvenir.

American Citizen Information Nights

March 6, 2007. 17:30-20:00 in Stuttgart

March 8, 2007. 18:00-20:00 in Kaiserslautern

The U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt is pleased to announce our American Citizen Information Nights, taking place in Stuttgart on Tuesday, March 6, from 17:30-20:00 and in Kaiserslautern on Thursday, March 8, from 18:00-20:00. American citizens and their immediate family members are invited to attend these events to learn more about our services for you, including passport and citizenship services, registration, social security and other federal benefits, to get answers to questions on security, Avian Influenza, tax forms and filing requirements, immigration benefits for family members, absentee voting and other consular services and to meet representatives from local community groups. For more information and for directions to the venues, please click here: [American Citizen Information Nights](#).

Passports

[Check your Passport's Expiration Date!](#) Vacation time will be here sooner than you think – if you're planning on summer travel outside of Germany, please take a moment to check the

expiration date on your passport. If it will expire soon, make your plans now to renew it in order to avoid a last minute rush and unnecessary stress during our summer peak. During non-peak months, the normal processing time for a passport renewal is usually about two weeks, so don't wait until the last minute. Check our website to find out the procedures for renewing a U. S. passport: [Applying for a Passport](#).

Electronic Passports (ePassports): The State Department is phasing in the issuance of the new Electronic Passport (ePassport) to better facilitate international travel for U.S. citizens and enhance border security. The e-passport integrates the latest concepts in electronic document protection and readability. The chip, embedded in the cover of the passport, holds the same information that is printed in the passport: name, date of birth, gender, place of birth, dates of passport issuance and expiration, passport number, and photo image of the bearer. Further information can be found on the State Department's website about [the United States Electronic Passport](#). **Please note:** Previously issued passports without electronic chips will remain valid until their expiration dates. There is no need to apply for a new ePassport until your currently valid passport expires.

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI): If you have travel plans which include countries in North America besides the United States, please note the following important change in passport requirements: Effective January 23, 2007, travelers departing from or entering the United States from within the Western Hemisphere at air ports-of-entry must present a valid passport. Previously, citizens of the United States, Bermuda, and Canada traveling within the Western Hemisphere were exempt from the passport requirement. The WHTI eliminates this exemption and aims to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for American citizens and legitimate foreign travelers by ensuring that travelers possess secure, verifiable identity and citizenship documents.

Income Tax Time

Tax time is once again upon us. U.S. citizens who are resident overseas receive an automatic extension of the deadline to file, to 15 June. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing tax returns are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your individual circumstances generally determine whether you must file an income tax return. The following link will assist you in determining your filing requirements: [Am I required to file a U. S. tax return?](#) You can find all of the forms, publications and information about income taxes at the IRS website by clicking here: [Internal Revenue Service](#). Also check out the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Mission Germany website for more tax information: [Taxes - FAQ](#).

Are You Registered With Us?

Registration of American citizens overseas is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling or residing overseas. Registration enables the Department of State to reach you quickly with important information in the event of an emergency. In addition, we use registration as a means of providing Americans residing abroad routine information on

new regulations and changes to services. In Frankfurt's Consular District, all registered Americans who provided us email contact information receive this newsletter automatically. Feel free to forward the newsletter to recently arrived American citizens living in Germany and encourage them to register as well. Click here for more information and to register: [Registration](#). If you are a member or a representative of a community group that includes Americans and would like to receive this newsletter for your group, please contact us at GermanyACS@state.gov to sign up for our electronic mailing list.

The U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt

The Consulate General in Frankfurt provides a full range of consular and passport services for American citizens in the states of Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz, Baden-Württemberg, and Saarland. Please click [here](#) to access our website for information on our opening hours and how to contact us and for general information on each of our services.

The Frankfurt Consulate is closed on German and American holidays. In addition, we have no public hours on the last Thursday of each month. Outside of business hours, and at any time the Consulate is closed to the public, an emergency duty officer can be reached at 069-7535-0. In the coming months, we will observe the following holidays:

March

29. Last Thursday

April

06. Good Friday
09. Easter Monday
26. Last Thursday

May

17. Ascension Day
28. Memorial Day
31. Last Thursday

June

07. Corpus Christi Day
28. Last Thursday

July

04. Independence Day
26. Last Thursday

August

30. Last Thursday

Contact information and opening hours

<http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov>

Passport Unit

Open to the public from 7:30am to 11:30am Monday to Friday

Tel: (069) 7535-2100, 2:00 – 4:00 pm only

Fax: (069) 7535-2304

Special Consular Services

Tel: (069) 7535-2102

Fax: (069) 7535-2252

GermanyACS@state.gov

Open to the public from 8:00am to 12:00 noon, Monday to Friday

After-Hours Emergencies: (069) 7535-0

